



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 16, 2007

H.R. 1433 **District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on March 13, 2007*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1433 would expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives from 435 to 437 during the 110th Congress. The legislation would provide the District of Columbia with one Representative and add one new at-large Member (after a special election). Under H.R. 1433, the new at-large seat would initially be assigned to the state of Utah and then would be reallocated based on the next Congressional apportionment following the 2010 census.

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by about \$200,000 in 2008 and by about \$2.5 million over the 2008-2017 period. In addition, implementing the bill would have discretionary costs of about \$1 million in 2008 and about \$9 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the availability of the appropriated funds.

H.R. 1433 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the costs would not be significant and would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$66 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1433 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

| By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | |

CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING

New Representative's Salary and Benefits

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated Budget Authority | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Estimated Outlays | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

New Representative's Office and Administrative Expenses

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated Authorization Level | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Estimated Outlays | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

NOTE: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted before the start of fiscal year 2008, that Utah will hold a special election before or early in the second session of the 110th Congress, and that spending will follow historical patterns for Congressional office spending.

The legislation would permanently expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives by two to 437 Members. The new representatives would take office on the same day. One new Member would represent the District of Columbia and the other would be a Representative at-large for the state of Utah until the next apportionment based on the 2010 census. The District of Columbia currently has a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives and would not hold a special election. H.R. 1433 would establish voting representation for the conversion of the District's delegate to Representative and would not add significant costs since the position is already funded with the same salary and administrative support as other Representatives.

Direct Spending

Enacting H.R. 1433 would increase direct spending for the salary and associated benefits for the new at-large Representative. CBO estimates that the increase in direct spending for the Congressional salary and benefits would be about \$2.5 million over the 2008-2017 period.

That estimate assumes that the current Congressional salary of \$165,200 would be adjusted for inflation. With benefits, the 2008 cost would be about \$200,000.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

Based on the current administrative and expense allowances available for Members and other typical Congressional office costs, CBO estimates that the addition of a new Member would cost about \$1 million in fiscal year 2008 and about \$9 million over the 2008-2012 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 1433 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA because it would temporarily preempt laws in the state of Utah that govern the election of Members of the House of Representatives. The bill would require the state to elect an additional Member of the House using a statewide election. The state may derive benefits from having an additional Member of the House of Representatives. However, Utah could incur some costs to hold a special election in 2007 or 2008 and would incur small marginal costs to elect the additional Member through the 2010 election cycle. CBO estimates that those costs would not be significant and would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$66 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation.)

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The legislation contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 16, 2007, CBO also provided a cost estimate for H.R. 1433 as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 15, 2007. The two versions of the bill are similar, and our cost estimates are the same.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Matthew Pickford

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private-Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis